

# Office of Mine Safety and Licensing

Volume 4, Issue 2

Quarterly news and report for April-June, 2010

## A Word from the Executive Director



I have worked in the Kentucky mining industry for 39 years, and during that time I have seen this industry make tremendous strides in terms of safety improvements. As an industry, we work each day to ensure Kentucky coal mines are a safe place to work while continuing to provide for the energy needs of our state and country. As my mind goes back in time, let me share just a few advancements I have seen in mine safety and technology:

### Mine Safety Improvements:

- Those who have been around a while can remember the days before miner training and certification requirements existed. I recall the second day I worked in the mine, I was told I was going to shoot coal that day because the regular shot firer was off. Yes, we have come a long way in the Kentucky industry in providing miners proper training before assigning them work duties. Today's coal miner receives extensive safety training before starting to work as a miner. They must receive task training from a supervisor or an experienced coal miner on the specific job they will be assigned. This has made our Kentucky mines a safer place to work.

### Mining Technology Advancements:

- The ATRS (Automated Temporary Roof Support) has been one of the greatest advancements in mine safety technology in my lifetime. I can remember walking in by permanent roof support to set roof jacks. Kentucky miners today would never think of doing that, I hope.
- The dust filtering systems on today's continuous mining machines eliminate most of the coal dust being generated by the continuous miner as it mines coal.
- Multi gas detection devices are now being carried by many of our underground and surface miners. When I began as a miner, the detectors being carried could only detect methane; a flame safety lamp was used to detect low oxygen.
- Improvements in roof support technology.
- Improvements in mine ventilation systems.

To my fellow Kentucky coal miners, as our industry presses forward in mine safety advances, let me remind each of you to work safely because you are Kentucky's most valuable resource.

Thanks,  
Johnny Greene, Executive Director  
Kentucky Office Of Mine Safety and Licensing

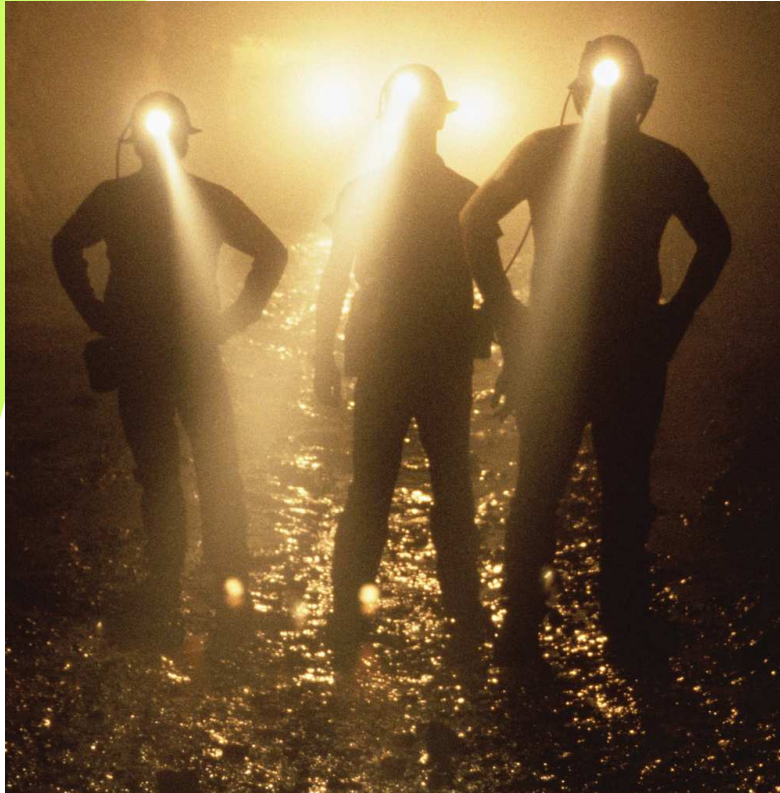


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# Fatalities

April-June 2010



April 28, 2010  
**Justin Travis**  
Webster County Coal  
Dotiki Mine

District:  
Madisonville

Cause: Fall of roof/  
rib

April 28, 2010  
**Michael W. Carter**  
Webster County Coal  
Dotiki Mine

District:  
Madisonville

Cause: Fall of  
roof/rib

June 16, 2010  
**Jim Carmack**  
Lone Mountain  
Processing Inc.  
Clover Fork No. 1

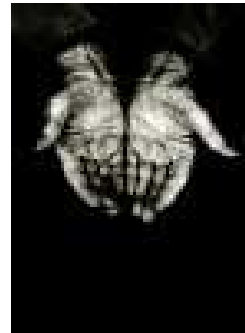
District: Harlan

Cause: Fall of Face/  
Rib/Highwall

June 24, 2010  
**Bobby Smith**  
Leeco Incorporated  
#68

District: Hazard

Cause: Machinery



To view a full report please go to:  
[HTTP://OMSL.KY.GOV/PAGES/KentuckyCoalMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx](http://OMSL.KY.GOV/PAGES/KentuckyCoalMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx)

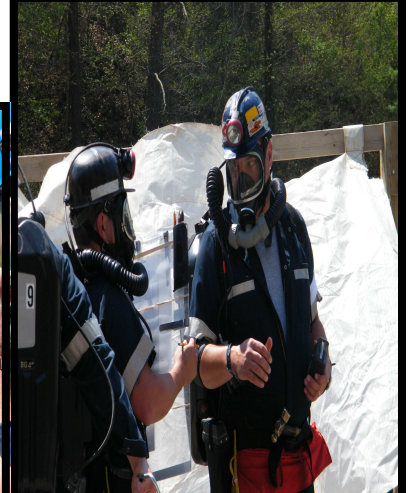


# Mine Rescue

**Jenny Wiley State Park  
April 14-15, 2010**

Twelve OMSL mine rescue teams competed in a two day inner-agency mine rescue contest at Jenny Wiley State Park. This contest met the MSHA contest requirements portion of the MINER Act for 2010. First second and third place awards were presented each day. On April 14, first place was Madisonville District blue team, placing second was Madisonville gray team and third place was Hazard No. 2 team. On April 15, first place was awarded to Madisonville District blue team, second place was Barbourville No. 2 team and third went to Pikeville No. 1 team. Congratulations to all teams!

Thanks to our OMSL staff for providing the pictures!





# Mine Rescue

**Madisonville-WKMI  
May 26-27**

The West Kentucky Mining Institute conducted its annual Safety Days Competition with 27 mine rescue teams from five states participating. Along with the 27 mine rescue teams, there were ten first-aid teams, 27 benchmen, 18 pre-shift competitors and nine combination teams. Congratulations to all of the top finishers in each class!

Thanks to our OMSL staff for providing the pictures!





## New Employees



**Eric Nichols**  
Madisonville District  
Mine Safety Analyst I  
Hire Date: 4/1/2010



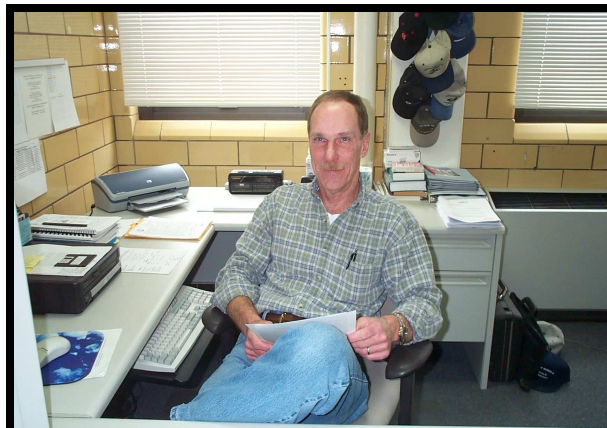
**Billy Brewer**  
Madisonville District  
Mine Inspector I  
Hire Date: 6/16/2010

"Teamwork is  
the ability to  
work as a group  
toward a common  
vision, even if  
that vision  
becomes  
extremely  
blurry"  
~author unknown

## Retirement

Joe Gill is a familiar face to most everyone in OMSL and in the West Kentucky coal field. Joe began his mining career in 1969 with Island Creek Coal Co., where he worked for nearly 21 years. During his time with Island Creek Joe performed just about every job, from shot-fier to fire boss and also served as the local union president at Providence #1 mine for several years. Joe left Island Creek Coal in 1991 when he accepted a position with the then Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals (now the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing) as a underground mine safety analyst where his mining experience was put to good use observing and evaluating the work habits of miners involved in the production of coal. In 1994, Joe transferred to the Mine Inspection Division and did regular inspections until August 2003 when he accepted the assistant district supervisor position in the Madisonville OMSL District. He served in that capacity until retiring at the end of March 2010. Joe was a member of the district mine rescue team and served many years on the Pre-Shift Rules Committee as well as serving many years as the chief judge of the WKMI pre-shift contest.

Joe has been a great asset to the mining industry throughout Kentucky through his work as an accident investigator, mine rescue team member, pre-shift contest designer, mine safety analyst, mine inspector and all around good guy. We want to wish Joe the best in his retirement.





# We're On The Web

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To View OMSL Disciplinary  
Cases Before the Kentucky Mine  
Safety Review Commission  
go to:  
[HTTP://OMSL.KY.GOV](http://OMSL.KY.GOV)



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## OMSL District Offices and Addresses

### Barbourville

1313C S U.S. Highway 25E  
P.O. Box 1886  
Barbourville, KY 40906

Tel. 606-546-5035  
FAX: 606-545-9704

Supervisor:  
**Ricky Johnson**

### Harlan

164 Ballpark Road  
P.O. Box 836  
Harlan, KY 40831

Tel. 606-573-1260  
FAX: 606-573-1265

Supervisor:  
**George Johnson**

### Hazard

556 Village Lane  
P.O. Box 851  
Hazard, KY 41702

Tel. 606-435-6079  
FAX: 606-435-6078

Supervisor:  
**Dave Mullins**

### Madisonville

625 Hospital Drive  
P.O. Box 521  
Madisonville, KY 42431

Tel. 270-824-7523  
FAX: 270-824-7526

Supervisor:  
**Ronnie Drake**

### Martin

Coal Building  
P.O. Box 907  
Martin, KY 41649

Tel. 606-285-3227  
FAX: 606-285-9206

Supervisor:  
**Randy Smith**

### Pikeville

284 Weddington Branch Rd  
P.O. Box 3023  
Pikeville, KY 41501

Tel. 606-433-7742  
FAX: 606-433-7763

Supervisor:  
**Mike Elswick**